

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00376 160944Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /091 W

----- 027605

R 151730Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6133

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1382

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IC

SUBJECT: PROGRESSIVE PARTY EDITORIAL SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL STAND FIRM

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PROGRESSIVE PARTY DAILY TIMINN, IN MARCH 13 EDITORIAL, DISMISSED AS WISHFUL THINKING RECENT CLAIMS BY POLITICAL OPPOSITION THAT COALITION IS DIVIDED AND SHORT-LIVED. PAPER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PP AND GOVERNING PARTNER INDEPENDENCE PARTY WERE OLD RIVALS WITH DIFFERENT OUTLOOKS ON MANY ISSUES. STILL, PARTIES HAD NOT SHRUNK FROM RESPONSIBILITY AT TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED AND THEY WOULD NOT ABANDON JOB NOW IN SPITE OF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. "RESPONSIBLE MEN ARE NEVER LESS LIKELY TO GIVE UP THAN WHEN THEY ARE BEING TESTED," TIMINN SAID.

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END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: TIMINN AND IP
COUNTERPART MORGUNBLADID HAVE COME OUT WITH SIMILAR EDITORIAL
PEP TALKS PERIODICALLY SINCE PARTIES JOINED IN COALITION.
HOWEVER, THIS LATEST ONE, WRITTEN BY POWERFUL PP ALTHING
LEADER THORARINN THORARINSSON, COMES AT TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT
IS PASSING THROUGH PERIOD OF GREATEST TEST THUS FAR OF ITS
COHESIVENESS. FISHERIES DISPUTE, WITH ALL ITS OFFSHOOTS,
MAJOR ECONOMIC AND LABOR PROBLEMS, AND CONTINUING CONTROVERSY
OVER CHARGES OF IMPROPRIETY AGAINST PP CHAIRMAN OLAFUR JO-
HANNESSON HAVE TAKEN TOLL IN TERMS OF STRAIN ON COALITION
UNITY. TIMINN COMMENT IS THUS NOTEWORTHY EFFORT BY KEY
COALITION FIGURE TO CURB, OR AT LEAST PUT IN PERSPECTIVE,
CURRENT SPECULATION ABOUT IMMINENT GOVERNMENT DEMISE.

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IRVING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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